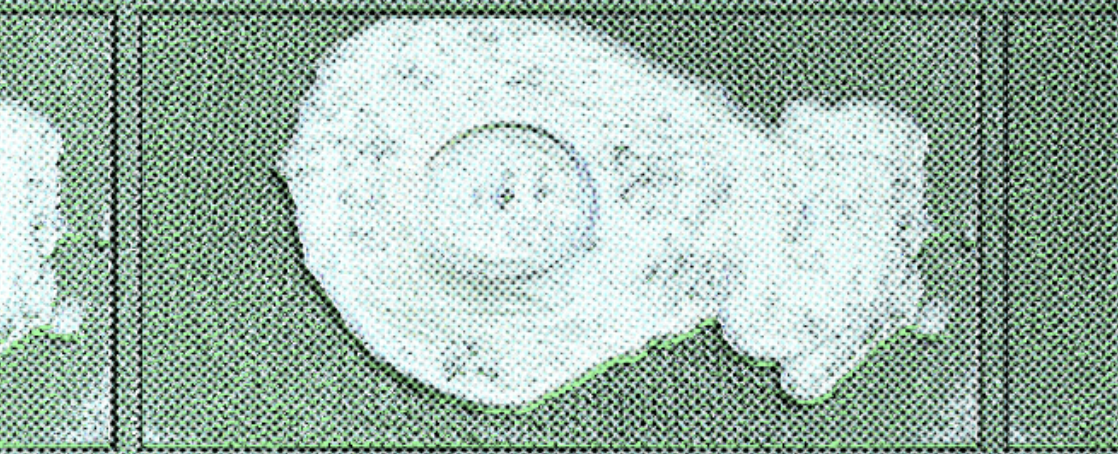
1

The Radio Zero



issue 1: apr-may 2026

How are we?

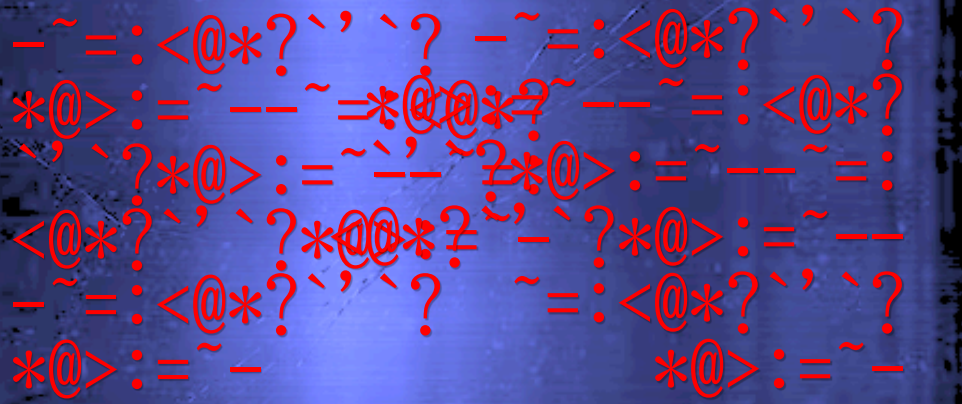
salutations! welcome to the first issue of The Radio Zero. it's exciting to connect with you, the reader, through this original zine series (currently digital). this is a bi-monthly post, a mercurial blog, a little extension of myself in the online space.

each issue will contain explorations of my life in snapshots of music, assorted thoughts, and enigmatic (even comical) forecasts of our future and reflections of my experiences - a personal, reflective zine-blog, cocooned in abstract technology and online reality.

that's why i felt "the radio zero" felt like a matching title - i am birthing a system that updates regularly with minimal interruptions. in other words, welcome to my nonexistent radio!

i'd want to start by asking you, how are you? it is a weird time to be in - this time of year: it's the exam seasons, the summer that's not quite arrived yet, the heat waves and our collective existential crisises. but none of this is really new, so the real question is, don't we already know how we are?

nonetheless, i still believe a "how are you" is worth asking in this bizzare time. i hope you're having a peaceful moment and feel safe in this world. you are tuned into the radio zero, enjoy your stay!



this issue is a mix of reflections i've had regarding our current culture as well as half-hearted manifestations. i think about how i'm practically inseparable from my devices, and how that's became a common melancholic sentiment among anyone really. recently, i've been trying to pull myself back from scrolling, and experience my sight with much more intention. it's a stressful time (personally), with a flooded schedule and flowering procrastination, but i've put together these pages to offer resonance before we dive into the cycles of routine again.

○ *Contents* ○

1 - Cover	*Front Page*
2 - 3 How Are We / Contents	*Introduction*
4 The Sky Switches Weather	*Article / Blog*
5 An Affirmation For Us	*An Affirmation*
6 - 7 Receipts	*My Poetry*
8 - 9 Photo Samples	*Photo Dump*
10 - 11 Dreams, Recently	*Dreams I've Had*
12 - 13 The Album Continuum	*Album Reviews*
14 You, In Another Reality?	*A Tarot Reading*
15 Swan Songs of Vol. 1	*Playlist / Songs I Love*
16 Back Cover	*Back Cover*

The Sky Switches Weather (Like Channel Surfing)

April-May British weather needs no introduction. Sleet, hail, rain, sun all in one day has become routine for Londoners. But something about these constant switches feels odd.

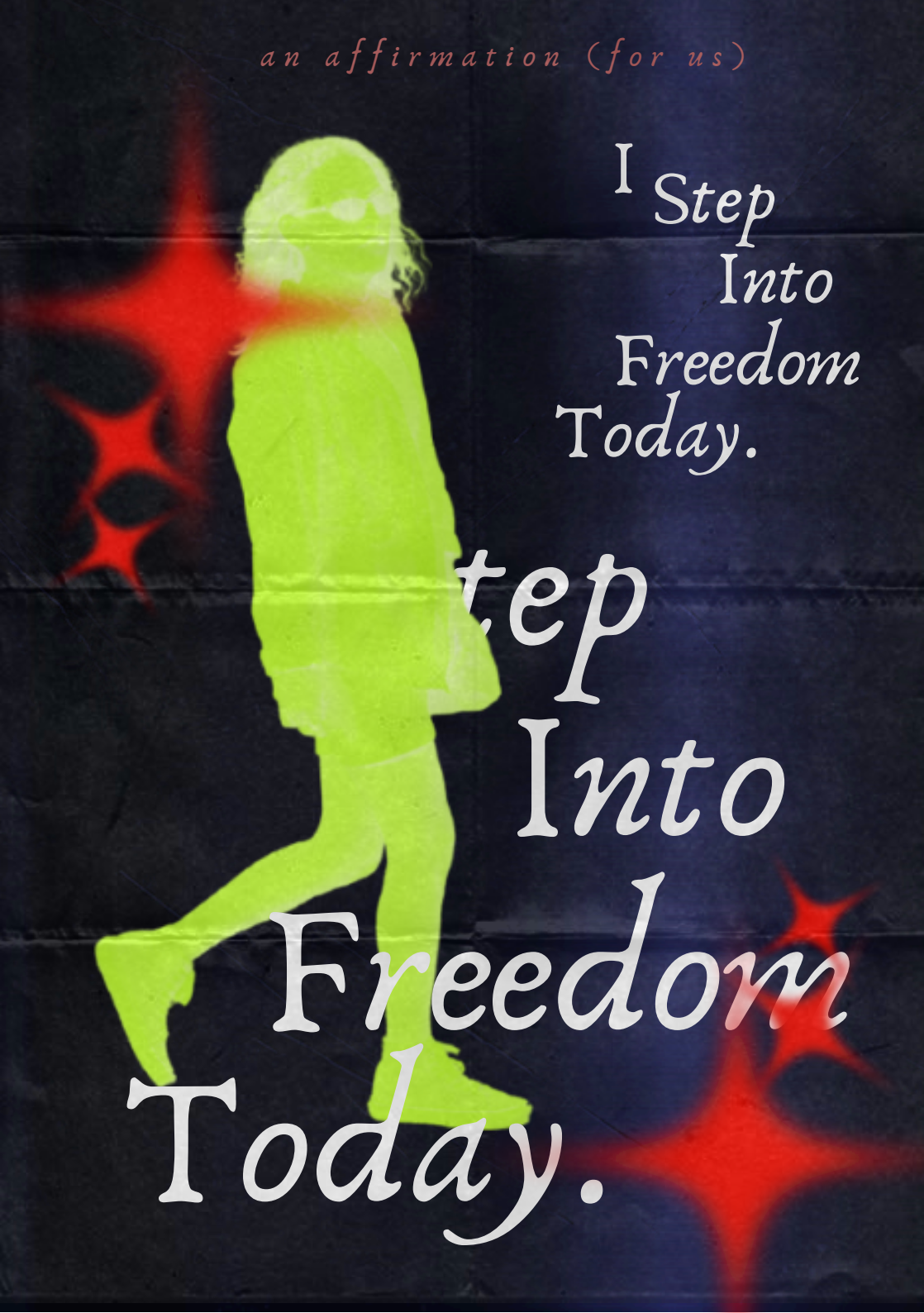
If you've ever watched The Truman Show, you'd remember that scene when Truman was rained on by a controlled hose that follows his motions. It's not hard for me to get existential, but I do feel like it's almost comical watching these sudden weather shifts and wonder whoever's out there, making this whole simulation of us.

There are so many weather forecasts and weather channels that can predict the climate to the longest digit, but there are days when no one would assume hail pouring down from the sky. It could be the consequences of our own actions, the environmental crisis and the science behind that. That's the boring but very imminent answer.

My friends have been talking about simulation theory one day, and if we're really just part of a video game, or some entertainment thing to an external world, I can imagine somebody out there surfing through TV channels or scrolling through weather options to see how we would react. I carry wonder and fascination with this thought instead of fear. Or they could be quickly scanning through our "weather", like how we work through a few songs on a playlist to find something worthwhile listening to.

I also imagine what if these grander beings were entertained by perceive weather, instead of our attachment to screens, pixels and overloaded sounds and imagery. The weather is nature to us, but it can be a game or a show with endless seasons to another kind.

an affirmation (for us)



Order
Host: N

30/4/2026
00:00pm

1 Saw a halo round the streetlamp today	0.00
2 Could be my iris reflex's refusal to obey	0.00
3 Focused my vision into a small device	0.00
4 So I won't even know if the sun is revived	0.00
5 What happens when the sun sleeps late?	0.00
6 What happens to the afterimage's fate?	0.00
7 It might be too blurry for me	0.00
8 Pixels are painful to see.	

Sale

VISA 1231

Subtotal	0.00
	0.00
	0.00
Total:	Sale
Transaction Type:	Approved
Authorization:	2174433
Payment Code:	101742062

The Radio Zero

Est. 2026

ORDER: 01-4

04/30/2026 00:00
Transaction **8217535**

1	Cloudy or not, I pull my body out of the blankets	$ 0.00
	And I let whatever's stirring inside my head	$ 0.00
1	Drain out, into a hurricane inside the sink	$ 0.00
1	Emptying the contents of a mirror	$ 0.00
2	Charged or not, I pick my phone out from a platter of objects	$ 0.00
	And I let whatever's inside the unit	$ 0.00
2	Crash in, into my digestion, into my soul	$ 0.00
2	Filling the hunger of a dopamine-starved you	$ 0.00

SUBTOTAL **$ 0.00**

TOTAL **$ 0.00**

CREDIT CARD AUTH $ 0.00

Photo Samples

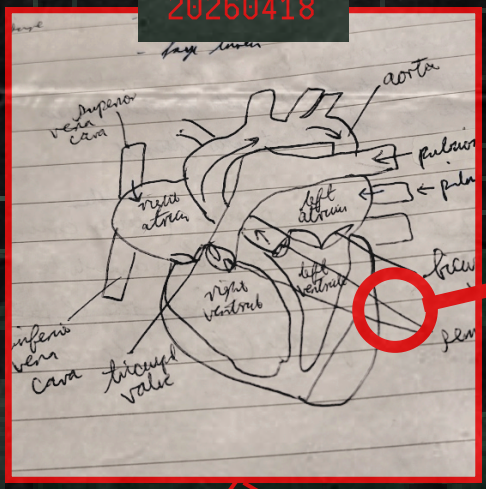
rotation

food preparation

circular

plates

20260418



20260409

wooden fibre

transports

arrival

photosynthesis

20260502

20260514

Recently, Dreams

27 / 4 / 26
I was at the edge of a hotel when a bus drove by closely, then someone - a magician - emerged behind the bus and bowed at me. I saw someone standing at the hotel window, a hotel clerk staring at us. Then I was in her POV. I was walking with two guests, someone who's afraid of centipedes and someone who's afraid of spiders. We were walking to an empty foyer-room with rods and lines that acted as traps.

7 / 5 / 26

I was in a large atrium of a large cruise ship during some fancy dinner party. It was filled with guests holding drinks. There was a large empty space in the crowd where a girl stood on her own. Then, a few passengers were called by an authority figure (who was not visible in my POV) to receive awards. Something like a diploma. The attention was on the girl, because the authority figure appeared to be waiting behind the walls to present the girl's diploma. Later, it was revealed the authority figure was a medical doctor, and the girl was about to give birth.

The Album Continuum

(A Review of a new favourite release & how it contrasts with an older album.)

Sexistential by Robyn / Pang by Caroline Polachek

When *Sexistential* by Robyn dropped at the end of March 2026, I couldn't stop listening to it. This was my first album by Robyn that I have listened in full. The 9-track album, exploring sex and existentialism, has filled me with inspiration and revelations I've been wanting to share.

Initially, this was a short, dance-friendly album I could bop to, but sonically (the raw synths and deep, heartfelt drums) and lyrically (the confessional and mature songwriting) - the album reminded me of *Virgin* (2025) by Lorde.

Both albums span around half an hour, and explore the unfiltered aspects of life and our internal epiphanies when often trivialized processes, such as sex, weaves into our lives. While I loved Lorde's *Virgin*, *Pang (2019)* by Caroline Polachek became an even more interesting contrast to *Sexistential.*

Pang is the highly acclaimed album released by one of my favourite avant-garde artists Caroline Polachek in 2019. Polachek's unique writing style in Pang artfully and accurately depict these feelings of uncertainty, doubt and even pain that comes with infatuation.

In *So Hot You're Hurting My Feelings*, Caroline sings: "I get a little lonely / Get a little more close to me / You're the only one who knows me, babe / So hot you're hurting my feelings / Can't deal."

This chorus goes straight to her point, expressing her yearning for a meaningful connection from the dedicatee of this song - before switching to the "punchline" of *'So Hot You're Hurting My Feelings'*. Caroline masterfully expresses how this intense attraction, or even lust, can actually allow one to reflect on their truest intentions.

The key feature I love about *Sexistential* is Robyn's straightforward, and at times comical lyricism, that is actually highly poetic.

In *Talk To Me*, Robyn sings: "I'm coming fast, so guide me in / Just hit me up and talk to me, work up a vibe / Sometimes I get so lonely (So lonely) / So, baby, won't you talk to me till I've arrived?" In this section Robyn subtly hits at the pain of pleasuring oneself, justified as a honest plead for connection, similar to the notion in Caroline's song.

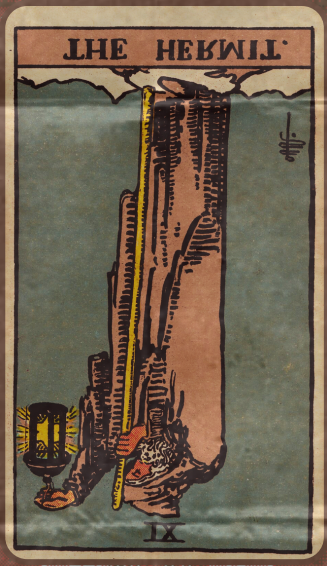
Funnily, in 2020, Caroline coined the term "Scorny" - a portmanteau of Scary and Horny, which underscores a similar idea behind *Sexistential* - a mix of the reflective, daunting thoughts that can coexist with lustful moments.

From an interview with CapitalFM, Robyn reveals the meaning behind *Into The Sun*, the closing track of *Sexistential*: "I feel sometimes like believing in love is a [self-destructive] mission. It will end no matter what... it's a very big existential song and dramatic." To me, the short length of this album adds to this feeling as well - Robyn has not released any albums for 7 years (!) before *Sexistential*, and the 30-min album truly feels like a profound spark that is only ephemeral.

Themes of the fantasy of endlessness also appear in Pang. From the title *Go as a dream* - signifying the short-lived nature of the connection expressed in this song, to the "Running running running..." refrain in *Door*, Caroline uses this concept of time running out, and the pain from intense love as a consistent through-line in *Pang*. Finally, the speaker in *Pang* is "Closing in on the sparkle of the waves" in Parachute, the final track, where the speaker is noticing the beauty of love and the surrounding environment before entering the beautifully ambiguous ending.

Sexistential and *Pang* are timeless masterpieces that I will definitely keep revisiting. I am completely in love with the relatable yet philosophical lyricism, and the captivating sonic language from both albums.

How are you, in another universe?

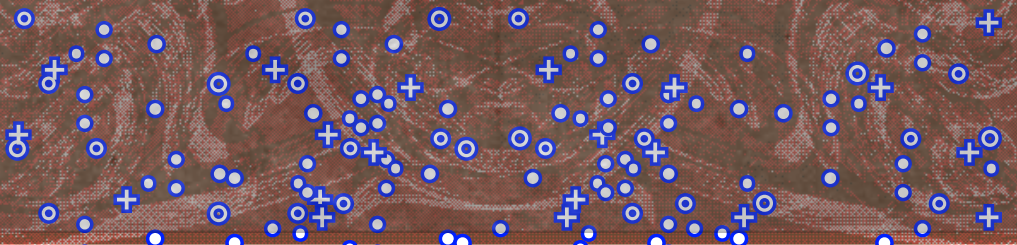


1. Expectations, tradition, learning, and passing on the learning
2. Isolation, concealment, exclusion with confusion
3. Imbalanced, unattached, misguided and misusing

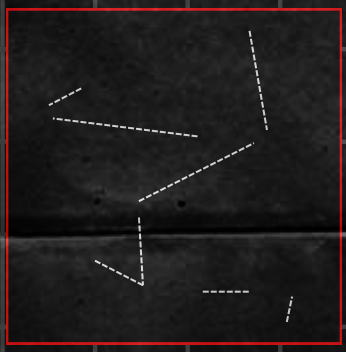
Take time to dedicate your energy to peace ▪ Be open to the world, and the world will be open to you

91

There is more to learn and there is more to try ▪ Isolation is not to be feared, but merely a call for recharge



The Swan Songs of Issue One



Kelela – Bank Head

Malibu – So Sweet & Willing

Casey MQ – Baby Voice

Oklou, FKA Twigs – Viscus

Art School Girlfriend – The Field

Ariana Grande – Better Off

The Japanese House – Leon

Lorde – Clearblue

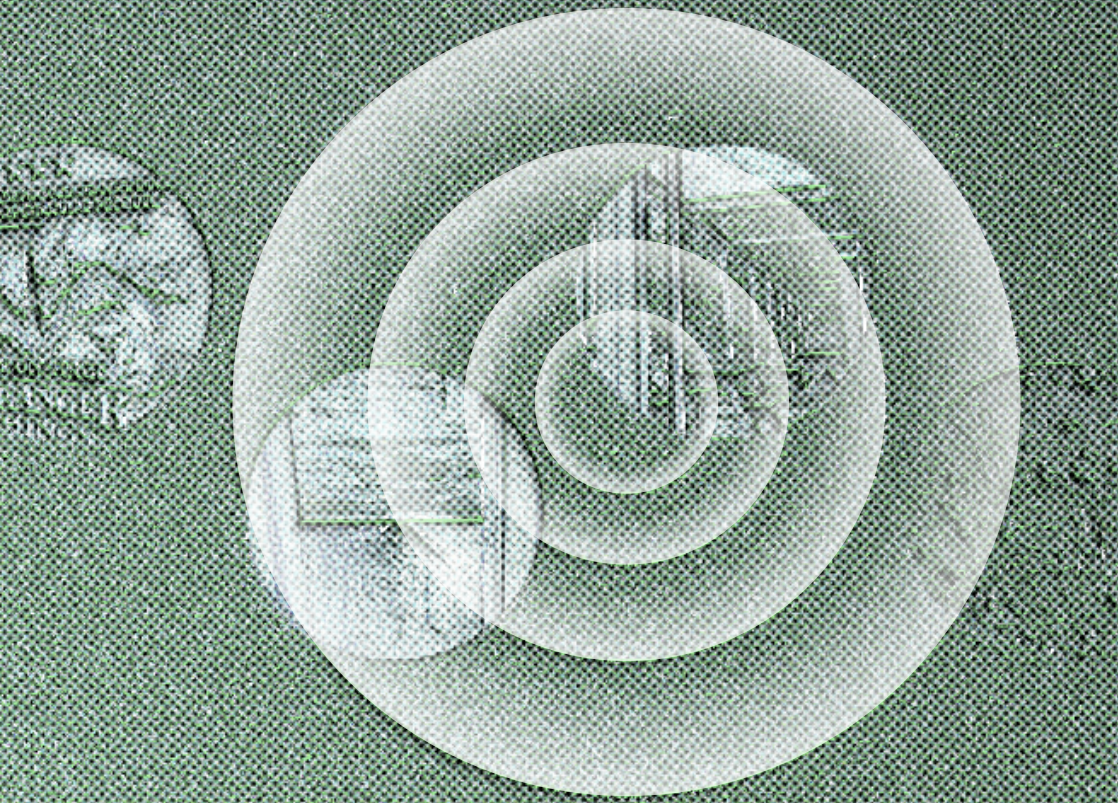
Holly Humberstone – Peachy

The Radio Zero

The Radio Zero *is an original zine series by Nexā (hello!) and updates every two months. Pulsing through snapshots of my everyday life and my ever-changing hyper-fixations, I unravel my tidal thoughts in the form of this zine series.*

Written & Designed by Nexā
Images from my camera roll + stock photos
No AI was used in the making of this series in any way :)

Instagram - Theradiozero.zine
Website - Soon!



next issue: 31st July 2026